

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /130 W

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O 051327Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4593

DIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 11839

DEPT PASS CAIRO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PMIL SY LE IS

SUBJ: SYRIAN BUILDUP

REF: BEIRUT 11671

1. LEBANESE PRESS CONTINUES RAISE ALARM OVER IMPENDING IDF
ATTACK AGAINST SYRIA AND/OR LEBANON CITING STATEMENT
BY SYRIAN MININFO TO BULGARIAN JOURNALISTS THAT
"ENEMY MASSING TROOPS THE LENGTH OF FRONTIER" AND
SIMILAR REPORTS BY SYRIAN NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY.
PRESS ALSO SPECULATES ON ISRAELI NEED RESPONSE TO SERIES
OF RECENT SETBACKS, INCLUDING KREISKY DECISION ON
JEWISH IMMIGRANTS, ZAIRE DECISION BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
ISRAEL, AND SYRIAN DECISION RENEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH JORDAN.

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2. LEBANESE ARMY HAS ASKED FOR OUR ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION. WE HAVE REPLIED THAT WE UNABLE PROVIDE ACCURATE INFO AS TO ISRAELI MILITARY MOVES OR INTENTIONS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY REPORTS FROM OUR EMBASSY ON UNUSUAL BUILDUPS. SENIOR LEBANESE ARMY OFFICER SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED EMBOFF THAT THEY HAD CONTACTED SENIOR SYRIAN ARMY OFFICER ABOUT REPORTED IDF BUILDUP AND SYRIAN DEFENSEIVE PREPARATIONS. REPLY SIMILAR TO THAT RECEIVED OCT 3 TO EFFECT THAT SITUATION DID NOT RPT NOT APPEAR ABNORMAL AND THAT ONLY MOVE SYRIANS HAD TAKEN WAS TO REINFORCE SLIGHTLY THEIR ADVANCE OP'S. SYRIAN ARMY OFFICER ADVISED LEBANESE ARMY AGAINST BELIEVING WHAT APPEARS IN SYRIAN MEDIA, EVEN STATEMENTS BY SYRIAN MININFO.

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF CERTAIN INCREASE IN PUBLIC UNEASINESS AND POSSIBILITY THAT THIS COULD LEAD TO SOME SORT OF ESCALATORY ACTION BY VARIOUS ARMED FORCES INVOLVED, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR UNTSO TO MAKE SPECIAL REPORT TO GOVTS INVOLVED ON SITUATION ALONG ISRAEL-SYRIAN AND ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDERS AND CEASE-FIRE LINES, AS SEEN BY UNMO'S.
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NNN

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TAGS: MILI, SY, LE, IS
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Type: TE
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